

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PO, AO

SUBJ: 30TH UNGA: GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER

ANTUNES OF PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES INDICATED THAT PORTUGAL SEEKS TO PLAY THE ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN AFRICA AND EUROPE. WHILE REAFFIRMING PORTUGAL'S COMMITMENT TO NATO, HE SAID THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND WOULD WELCOME THE "SUPER-CESSION" OF ANTAGONISTIC BLOCS INHERITED FROM THE COLD WAR. ON THE ANGOLA CRISIS, HE REITERATED THE GOP'S DETERMINATION TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE TERRITORY ON 11 NOVEMBER, AND PROPOSED THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PORTUGAL AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DEVISE MEANS TO TRANSFER POWER ON THAT DATE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN TIMOR IS "VERY SERIOUS," AND CALLED FOR TALKS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND INDONESIA TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY. END SUMMARY.

2. MELO ANTUNES DECLARED THAT PORTUGAL'S INDEPENDENCE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED "AGAINST" EUROPE TO WHICH IT IS BOUND BY INDISSOLUBLE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES. BUT HE ALSO REAFFIRMED THE GOP'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF

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LDCS TO ESTABLISH THE NIEO. HE SAID THAT PORTUGAL SEEKS

TO PLAY THE ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUOPRE IN PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT, AS A COLONIAL POWER, PORTUGAL WAS A SUBORDINATE LINK IN THE "CHAIN OF IMPERIALISTIC EXPLOITATION" AND FUNCTIONED AS A "CONVEYOR BELT" FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. HE ADDED THAT PORTUGAL'S RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH DECOLONIZATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION ENABLE IT TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF LDCS AND TO BECOME THE CARRIER OF A NEW PATTERN OF RELATIONS BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS.

3. ON THE ISSUES OF ANGOLA AND TIMOR, MELO ANTUNES REITERATED THE GOP'S POLICY OF RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS THE SOLE ARBITERS OF THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF COLONIAL PEOPLES. REGARDING ANGOLA, HE SAID THAT THE GOP CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE THE FNLA, MPLA AND UNITA AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, AND REMAINS COMMITTED TO GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO ANGOLA ON 11 NOVEMBER. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING CIVIL WAR, HE PROPOSED THE IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENT, PORTUGAL AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BE CHOSEN BY THESE MOVEMENT AS MEDIATORS. HE SAID THAT THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER THE MEANS BY WHICH POWER IS TO BE TRANSFERRED ON THE DATE OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE, AND URGED THE SUPPORT OF THE UN AS WELL AS THE NON-INTERFERENCE OF THE GREAT POWERS IN THIS PROCESS.

4. MELO ANTUNES CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN TIMOR AS "EXTREMELY SERIOUS." HE SAID THAT THE GOP HAS PROPOSED TALKS WITH THE APODETI, FRETELIN AND UDT PARTIES TO DISCUSS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT AND THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY. HE ADDED THAT THE GOP IS READY TO ACCEPT "A WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL FORMULAS" WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BOTH THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR AND THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF INDONESIA. TO THIS END HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOP IS READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH INDONESIA TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING DIFFERENCES AND TO DETERMINE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF TIMOR SUBJECT TO THE

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APPROVAL OF THE THREE PARTIES.

5. MELO ANTUNES SAID THAT PORTUGAL WILL REMAIN "LOYALLY BOUND" TO NATO BECAUSE ITS WITHDRAWAL WOULD CREATE AN "ABRUPT DISLOCATION IN THE PREVAILING GEO-STRATEGICAL EQUILIBRIUM" WHICH WOULD THREATEN DETENTE. BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE A POLICY OF "RAPPROACHEMENT" WITH THE NON-ALIGNED

COUNTRIES. CITING PORTUGAL'S PARTICIPATION AS A GUEST AT THE RECENT NAC CONFERENCE IN LIMA, HE SAID THAT THE GOP WILL STRIVE TO REINFORMCE ITS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERLA CONTACTS WITH NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE GROWTH OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE WILL PROVIDE A COUNTERBALANCE TO THE WEIGHT OF THE GREAT POWERS.

6. HE ALSO ENDORSED THE RESULTS OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE "SUPER-CESSION" OF THE ANTAGONISTIC BLOCS INHERITED FROM THE COLD WAR, AND WELCOMED THE END OF THE INDOCHINA WAR AS AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR WORLD PEACE ACHIEVED BY THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA "THROUGH THE FREE AND AUTONOMOUS CHOICE OF THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE." HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT SINAI AGREEMENT AS A STEP TOWARD A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT IGNORING ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. IN ADDITION, HE VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINY, AND CALLED UPON SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO RESPECT THE UN RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

7. MELO ANTUNES CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY POINTING OUT THAT THE GOP'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON THE DECISION OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT TO CREATE A SOCIALIST SOCIETY WITHOUT SACRIFICING POLITICAL DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THAT THIS COMMITMENT INSPIRED THE GOP'S SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE OF THIRD WORLD PEOPLES, AND ITS OPPOSITION TO THE "IMPERIALIST OR HEGEMONIC" AMBITIONS OF SOME NATIONS. HE ADDED THAT PORTUGAL WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POWER EXERCISED BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.
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